

Charleston County

Cancer Profile

August 2013



What Is Cancer?

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States and in South Carolina. Cancer is not one disease, but a group of diseases. For example, lung cancer is a completely different disease than colorectal cancer. All cancers have one thing in common, they can grow and spread uncontrollably if not diagnosed at an early stage and properly treated.

Cancer is caused by many things, like smoking, poor diet, and/or family history. The greatest risk factor for any cancer is increasing age. As people age, their risk of getting cancer increases. Men and women have different risks of developing cancer. In the United States, one out of two men and one out of three women will have cancer in his or her lifetime.

What Is Cancer Incidence?

Cancer incidence is a measure of how many new cancer cases occurred in a certain period of time. A cancer incidence rate tells how many people were diagnosed with cancer per 100,000 people in the population. (For example, a cancer incidence rate of 400 means that for every 100,000 people, 400 were diagnosed with cancer).

Incidence rates are age-adjusted, meaning the age structure of the population is taken into account. One county may have a larger number of elderly persons than another county. Adjusting for age differences allows us to compare county rates. Incidence rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

Table 1 shows selected cancers and the total cancers diagnosed in Charleston County between 2006 and 2010.

The table shows the number of cases and the age-adjusted rates for these cancers in Charleston County and in South Carolina. The last column shows how Charleston County ranks in comparison to the other 45 counties in South Carolina. A rank of 1 means that Charleston County has the highest rate of any county, while a rank of 46 means that Charleston County has the lowest rate of any county.

Table 1. Incidence Data* for Selected Newly Diagnosed Cancers, 2006-2010

Cancer Type	SC	Charleston County		Rank
	Age-Adjusted Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate	New Cases	
Breast (Female)	122.9	134.3	1,308	6
Prostate	153.6	148.0	1,229	27
Colon/Rectum	43.7	37.9	675	41
Lung/Bronchus	71.3	67.2	1,192	31
All	466.7	472.3	8,453	18

*Does not include *in situ* cases, except for bladder.

Cancers diagnosed in late stages lessen the potential for successful treatment and raise the risk of premature loss of life. Table 2 shows the percentage of cancers diagnosed in early and late stages of disease in South Carolina and in Charleston County.

Table 2. All Cancers by Stage of Diagnosis, 2006-2010

	South Carolina	Charleston County
	Percent of all cancers	Percent of all cancers
Early Stage	50	52
Late Stage	38	36
Unknown Stage	11	12

What Is Cancer Mortality?

Cancer mortality is defined as the occurrence of cancer deaths in a certain population within a given time period. Cancer mortality can be reported as either the number of deaths or as a mortality rate. A cancer mortality rate tells how many people died of cancer per 100,000 people in the population. (For example, a cancer mortality rate of 150 means that for every 100,000 people in the population, 150 died from cancer).

Cancer mortality rates are also age-adjusted, meaning that they take into account the age structure of the population. Adjusting for age allows us to compare county rates by removing differences in age structure among the counties. Mortality rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

Cancer mortality data for Charleston County for years 2006 to 2010 are shown in Table 3. The table lists selected types of cancer death as well as the total cancer deaths in the county. The number of deaths and age-adjusted death rates for Charleston County and South Carolina are shown. The last column shows how the county ranks in comparison to the other 45 counties in South Carolina. A rank of 1 means that Charleston County has the highest rate of any county, while a rank of 46 means that Charleston County has the lowest rate of any county.

Table 3. Mortality Data for Selected Types of Cancer Death, 2006-2010

	SC	Charleston County		
Cancer Type	Age-Adjusted Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate	Deaths	Rank
Breast (Female)	23.4	22.7	233	30
Prostate	27.4	27.4	171	29
Colon/Rectum	16.9	14.7	258	38
Lung/Bronchus	55.4	49.6	869	41
Pancreas	11.1	12.6	224	7
All	187.2	189.6	3,334	28

Impact of Cancer on Your County

In the United States, 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women will develop a life threatening cancer during their lifetime. The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that over 1,660,290 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2013. This translates to over 4,549 new diagnoses each day. Furthermore, an estimated 580,350 people are expected to die in 2013 from cancer in the United States.

In South Carolina, ACS estimates 27,620 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2013 or over 76 new cancer cases diagnosed each day, while an estimated 9,800 South Carolinians will die from cancer in 2013.

Table 4. Actual Cancer Cases* and Deaths in SC & Charleston County, 2010

	South Carolina		Charleston County	
	New Cases	Lives Lost	New Cases	Lives Lost
All	23,260	9,323	1,768	661
Male	12,195	5,046	911	374
Female	11,062	4,277	857	287
White	17,404	6,799	1,235	416
Black	5,428	2,374	502	231

*Does not include *in situ* cases, except for bladder.

As seen in Table 4 there was a total of **1,768** new cancer cases and **661** deaths from cancer during 2010 for Charleston County.

Charleston County

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in South Carolina. South Carolina ranks 15th in the nation for breast cancer deaths. There were **3,395** new female breast cancer cases diagnosed and **641** deaths during 2013 in South Carolina. Charleston County had **271** new female breast cancer cases and **45** breast cancer deaths in 2010. Excellent methods of early detection are available for breast cancer.

Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men in South Carolina. South Carolina ranks 4th in the nation for prostate cancer deaths. For South Carolina men, **3,299** new prostate cancer cases were diagnosed, and **484** died from the disease in 2010. In Charleston County in 2010 there were **255** new prostate cancer cases with **43** deaths.

Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer is the 4th most common cancer in South Carolina. South Carolina ranks 21st in the nation for colorectal cancer deaths. There were **2,074** new colorectal cancer cases and **890** colorectal cancer deaths in 2010. In Charleston County, there were **164** cases and **56** colorectal cancer deaths in 2010.

Lung Cancer

Lung Cancer is the 2nd most common cancer in South Carolina; currently South

Carolina ranks 15th in the nation for lung cancer deaths. In South Carolina there were **3,482** new lung cancer cases diagnosed and **2,712** lung cancer deaths in 2010. There were **230** new cases and **164** lung cancer deaths in 2010 Charleston County.

Pancreatic Cancer

Pancreatic Cancer is the 9th most common cancer in South Carolina and the 4th most common cause of cancer death; currently South Carolina ranks 21st in the nation for pancreatic cancer deaths. In South Carolina there were **659** new pancreatic cancer cases diagnosed and **555** pancreatic cancer deaths in 2010. There were **59** new cases and **46** pancreatic cancer deaths in 2010 Charleston County.

Note:

Data are subject to change as data sets are updated. Ranks include Washington DC.

The following suppression rules have been applied to the data in the text and tables above: (1) Counts of 1-4 are recorded as <5 (2) Counts of 5-9 are rounded to 10 (3) Rates resulting from counts 15 or fewer are suppressed due to the instability of calculating rates using small numbers.

Resources

SC Central Cancer Registry
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Deb Hurley, MSPH, Asst. Director
Rebecca George, MSPH, Research Analyst
2600 Bull St., Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 898-8000
<http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/phis/scccr/SCCCRmain.htm>



American Cancer Society
<http://www.cancer.org/Research/CancerFactsFigures/CancerFactsFigures/index>
Nancy Cheney, Director Government Relations- SC
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128 Stonemark Lane
Columbia, SC 29210
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National Program of Cancer Registries
United States Cancer Statistics
<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/>

